



*Maryland Department of General Services*

# NEWS RELEASE

*Martin O'Malley, Governor*

*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*

*Alvin C. Collins, Secretary*

## **MARYLAND STATE HOUSE TO CLOSE FOR EIGHT MONTHS**

*Board of Public Works approves construction contract for major renovations*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 30, 2008)** – The Maryland State House will close for a major renovations beginning in April. Following endorsement of the plan by the State House Trust, the Board of Public Works today approved a construction contract that will allow the work to begin following the 2008 General Assembly session.

“As the most important historic structure in Maryland, the State House requires special attention for its care and preservation,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “This project will allow this 228-year-old building to undergo much needed infrastructure modernization.”

The State House, one of the most visited tourist attractions in Maryland, is a National Historic Landmark and the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use. From November 1783 – August 1784, it was the capitol of the United States, the new country’s first peacetime capitol.

The primary scope of the project is to remove, upgrade and retrofit the existing heating and cooling interior piping systems throughout the State House. The current HVAC system is decaying and this renovation will prevent any future damage as well as bring the building into compliance with current code.

With a later contract modification, requiring Board of Public Works approval, additional renovation to be considered would include removal of the wall between the Calvert and Silver Rooms to recreate the old House of Delegates Chamber; conversion of the current Visitor’s Center to meeting space; inclusion of the current Visitor’s Center into the State Archives room; restoration of the Old Senate Chamber, including re-plastering and repainting, and new lavatories on the lower level.

The Board today authorized the award of a \$8,370,030 capital construction contract to Coakley Williams Construction, Inc., of Gaithersburg. Minority business participation on the project is 25% with 7% sub-contracting to African-American certified firms and 18% to women-owned firms.

“DGS will work closely with the contractor to ensure that all work is completed by the end of the year,” said Assistant Secretary for Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Thomas Genetti. “Working jointly with the Maryland Historic Trust and Maryland State Archives, DGS will ensure that all of the artifacts in the State House are stored properly and that all of the work is carefully documented and executed. Great care will be given to protect and preserve the architectural features adjacent to the project work areas.”

Current offices in the State House will be relocated. Although a final space determination has not yet been made, the Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office, Senate President and Speaker's staff will all relocate to existing office space either in Annapolis or Baltimore. Accommodations are also being made to relocate the existing press corps offices in the basement of the State House.

DGS began restoration and renovation of the State House in 1997, with window repairs, the replacement of the acorn on top of the dome, the fire alarm and sprinkler system, and public space repairs and refinishing.

In FY 2007, the DGS Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Division completed 119 State construction projects valued at \$47 million. The Division is currently supervising the construction of the \$12 million student services building at St. Mary's College, the \$20 million new elementary school for the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, and a \$15 million renovation project at Baltimore City Community College.

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